

Scores rounded up as Lanka hunts killers

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday rounded up scores of potential suspects during a massive hunt for Tamil Tiger rebels suspected of gunning down the foreign minister in an attack that has strained an already shaky ceasefire.

Some 1,000 police were deployed for a house-to-house search after the assassination of Lakshman Kadirgamar, shot dead Friday in the highest-level political killing in this island nation in more than a decade.

"We don't think the attackers were able to get out of the area," police chief Chandra Fernando said. "If we have the cooperation of the public, we can get at the killers."

Deputy police Inspector General Pujith Jayasundara said "scores" of people were detained and

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121 killed in Cypriot plane crash

AP, Grammatiko

A Cypriot airliner with 121 people on board crashed north of Athens yesterday, and rescuers said they had found no survivors. Reports said the pilots were unconscious when the plane went down, possibly because of a lack of oxygen in the cabin due to decompression.

The Helios Airways flight HCY 522 was headed from Larnaca, Cyprus to Athens International Airport when it crashed at about 12:20 p.m. near the coastal town of Grammatikos, about 25 miles north of the Greek capital.

The Boeing 737 was due to fly onto Prague, Czech Republic after

stopping in Athens.

The cause of the crash was unclear, but first indications were that there was a technical problem possibly decompression or lack of oxygen in the cabin_ and not terrorism.

Sotiris Voutas, the first cousin of a passenger on the plane, told Athens' Alpha television station that he received a text message from his relative on his mobile phone minutes before the crash.

"He told me the pilots were unconscious ... he said; 'Farewell, cousin, here we're frozen.'"

The only piece of the plane that remained intact was the tail section of the jet and debris was strewn in a

chasm and surrounding hills. Bits of human flesh, clothing, and luggage were scattered around the wreckage, which also started brush fires around the area.

Rescue helicopters flew overhead and firefighting planes swooped low to extinguish some of the fires. Ambulances crowded the roads near the crash site and dark black smoke could be seen rising from various sites around the crash.

"The Helios flight that crashed in the Athens area left Larnaca and was headed for Athens. The exact causes unknown," government spokesman Theodoros Roussopoulos said.

Rescue workers and residents on

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12 injured in DU hall clash

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 students were injured, three of them critically, in a clash between Bangalee and indigenous students of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University (DU) in the early hours yesterday.

Two rooms of the indigenous students were ransacked and at least 30 of them were driven out from the hall that created panic among the indigenous students.

Critically injured Christopher Riton Asham, a student of Mass Communication and Journalism, Ratan Moy Chakma Sumon and Arjun Chakma were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at about 1:30am.

Some other injured are Kushol Baran Chakraborty, Ascha Kumar Tanchanga, Nikhil Chakma, Mukut Chakma, Himel Chakma, Debasish Chakma, Hiron Chakma, Jyoti

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Blasts that robbed him of livelihood

BISHAWJIT DAS

Sixty-six-year old Afaz Uddin not only lost his daughter, Rizia Begum, in the August 21 mayhem. He also lost the only means of his livelihood with her death.

"She was not only my daugh-

ter, she was also my son and only hope for living," the ailing Afaz, father of four daughters, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Rizia, 45, a member of ward No. 58 unit of Awami Mahila League, made her living as a support service vendor in front of

the Indian Embassy.

A widow, she used to make Tk 100 to 150 per day, working from dawn to dusk on the street.

Even before the August 21st bombing, Rizia's life had hints of tragedy. Afaz, who worked as a

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Afaz Uddin stares blankly as he thinks about his daughter Rizia Begum, who was killed in the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue last year.

3 outlaws die in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

Three outlaws of Biplabi Communist Party (BCP) have been killed in 'crossfire' between their accomplices and law enforcers in Jessore and Kusthia.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-6 on Tuesday arrested four BCP activists -- Raju alias Killer Raju, Abu Bakkar alias Mujibar, Alamgir alias Killer Alamgir and Shaheen -- in Shankarpasha in Abhoynagar upazila, reports our Jessore correspondent.

Police said a Rab team on Saturday night took Raju, 25, of Abhoynagar and Mujibar, 32, of Landari in Khulna, to Shankarpasha to seize their firearms.

During the raid the Rab team

came under fire and countered the attack, the police said, adding, the two outlaws were bullet-hit and killed on the spot.

The Rab seized one locally made gun, one pistol and four cartridges.

The police said Raju and Mujibar were accused in five and seven criminal cases.

BDNEWS adds: Jamal Mondol alias Jamal, 30, a regional BCP leader, was killed in 'crossfire' between police and his accomplices in Jhawdia in Kusthia yesterday.

A team of Islamic University Police Station arrested Jamal in Laxmipur village under the sadar upazila on Saturday night.

The police said they took him to Jhawdia to arrest his accomplices

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Weaker Tk raises revenue

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

While revenue collection at import level marks a sharp 17.10 percent rise in the first month of 2005-06, the government is going to lower the import duties by 0.9 to 1 percent to meet a World Bank condition for its third tranche of Development Support Credit.

The overall revenue increased last month by some 14 percent, standing at Tk 2,089 crore, said a source at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday.

In July, revenue collection at import level was Tk 1,102 crore, at local level Tk 627 crore, posting a 6.25 percent growth, and from income tax Tk 272 crore, rising by 17.74 percent from those in July

2004.

The NBR's revenue collection from imports was quite poor in the early months of the last fiscal year, though it gradually peaked up towards the end, finally achieving about 12 percent yearly growth.

NBR sources said the recent depreciation of taka, though stoked up inflation, did contribute to the increased import level revenue, as the duties are set in local currency. Compared to July 2004, taka lost about 10.74 percent of its value against US dollar in import in July 2005, banking source said. Last month, the average price of dollar in import was Tk 67, compared to Tk 60.50 in July 2004.

Attempted murder charges pressed against chief whip's son

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday pressed charges against Akhter Hamid alias Paban, son of Chief Whip Khondokar Delwar Hossain, in an attempted murder case.

DB Inspector Ruhul Amin, who is the investigation officer (IO), pressed the charge to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Dhaka with 12 people as prosecution witnesses.

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Rotten eggs, bananas for DMCH patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rotten eggs and bananas, expired bread, fly infested rice, and adulterated milk are the meals served to patients at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) mobile court yesterday found a gravely unhygienic environment at the DMCH canteen during a raid. Among other things, the court found around 150 rotten eggs preserved for the patients of the DMCH. The court later destroyed all the eggs.

"The patients will simply be sick if they eat those foods. When we saw

such a serious situation, we went to inform the director of the hospital. But neither the director nor the other officials were available there," said Md. Golam Sanwar, the public analyst of the DCC.

"All the items of the DMCH canteen were either rotten or sub-standard," he added.

Later the court apprehended Ishaq Ali, the supplier of the eggs, and sent him to one-year of vigorous jail time.

Before that the court collected Tk 21,600 from the Raj and Rajdhani restaurants in Gulistan for selling rotten food, failing to cover food and

keeping food items close to open door toilets.

"The front side of the hotel is so good, but the kitchen is simply dirty and unhygienic. So we warned them and collected fines from them," said a member of the DCC mobile court.

Another mobile court, led by magistrate Md. Rokanuddullah, raided Meghna biscuit and bread factory and found rotten eggs. The court also found different unsafe chemicals used in the bakery products.

The court arrested the owner, Ashraf Khan, and the manager,

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30 injured as JCD factions clash at IU

IU CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 students were injured in factional clashes of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the Islamic University (IU) campus yesterday noon.

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Prayer Timing		
August 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-38	6-41
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		